

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8397

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTOWA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, DM

SUBJ: AZONHIHO THREATENS EXPULSION OF EXPATRIATES JEHOVAH'S

WITNESSES: CALLS THEM PAID CIA AGENTS

1. IN A SPEECH IN THE ZOU PROVINCE, BORADCAST APRIL16, MIN
OF INTERIOR, SECURITY AND INFORMATION MARTIN AZONHIHO LAID
DOWN THE LAW REGARDING THE SUPREMACY OF THE REVOLUTION OVER
CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS. HIS MOST DIRECT MENANCE WAS TO THE JEHOVAH
WITNESSES. THEIR REFUSAL TO SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, SALUTE
THE NATIONAL FLAG AND CHANT THE REQUIRED REVOLUTIONARY SLOGANS
IS ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY. HE HAS GIVEN FIRM ORDERS THAT IF THEY
DO NOT YIELD BY THE END OF THE MONTH ALL EXPATRIATE REPS
OF THE JOHOVAH WITNESSES WILL BE EXPELLED FROM BENIN. HE
CONCLUDED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT QUOTE ANYWAY THEY ARE ALL
PAID AGENTS OF THE CIA. END QUOTE.

2. MOST EXPATRIATE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES IN BENIN ARE CANADIANS,
(TOTAL OF 6), THERE ARE NO AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE SECT IN THIS
COUNTRY.

3. FOR ACCRA: PLEASE INFORM THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION.

CHESSES

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE ACCRA
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